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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1905.

The University Standard.

In another column will be found a com-
munication from a correspondent in
Greensboro, N. C., who asks us whether
it be true—as alleged by the Presbyterian
Standard in its issue of February 8th—that
the University of Virginia has lowered
her standard and is now in competi-
tion with the colleges, which were
once "all ambitious for their graduates
to go to the University and take the M.
A. degree there."

In reply to this question we are able
to state emphatically (1) that the Uni-
versity has not lowered, but, on the contrary,
has raised her standard; and (2) that
far more men with collegiate degrees
have taken the M. A. degree at the Uni-
versity in very recent years than over
before.

If any alumnus can contradict this sec-
ond statement, we shall gladly admit our
error. But we are strongly of the opinion
that, with the possible exception of Jen-
nings Wise Garnett, who took the M. A.
degree in 1879, and who probably (though
we are not certain of it), held a degree
from William and Mary when he went
to the University, it would be hard to
name a single man with a college degree
who took the University M. A. before the
year 1884. There may have been a very few
other such men, and we shall be glad
to learn their names, if they ever existed;
but our own investigations have failed
to discover a single one. In the eleven
years, from 1884 to 1894, inclusive, how-
ever, as many as seventeen degree men
from colleges in various States have
received the Master's degree at the Uni-
versity of Virginia; and, of these seventeen,
no less than thirteen received it in the
last six years. In other words—without
entering into similar details concerning
the Ph. D. degree—it is altogether a de-
lusion to suppose that the University's
attractive power over college graduates
was greater in the past than in the pres-
ent. Exactly the reverse is true.

And now for the question of the Uni-
versity standard, which word we use in
the sense in which it is employed by our
correspondent and by the religious period-
ical quoted by him. When the latter as-
serts that the University has lowered her
standard, the meaning is that the M. A.
degree is now easier of acquisition than
in the good old times. This, however, is
distinctly not the case, in spite of the far
greater attractiveness of the degree.

The history of this degree at the Uni-
versity may be divided into three periods—
the ante-bellum period, the period from
1865 to 1892, and the period subsequent to
that year. Several years ago we looked
up the records from 1840 to 1861, and found
that during that time seventeen men took
the M. A. degree after only two years of
study at the University. In the second
period only one man succeeded in ac-
complishing the feat in so short a time.
In the third period not a single one has
done so (except half a dozen of those
who, having already spent four years in
getting a college degree, were for that
reason excused from doing some of their
work over again at the University); and
it may be safely predicted that no man
will ever attempt to do it again. Thus we
see that the difficulty of obtaining this
degree has become progressively greater,
and is greater now than ever before.

The false notion that the "standard"
had been lowered arose from a total
misconception of certain eminently wise
changes made in the requirements in 1892.
Before that time there was no freedom
of choice as to subjects; the result being
that the course was as distasteful to
many able students as would be a dinner
at which each man was required to eat
precisely the same quantity as every
other man of precisely the same things.
But since 1892 the degree has been con-
ferred upon those who (1) receive the
B. A. degree, the requirements for which
admit of considerable freedom of choice,
and (2) perform successfully the work of
advanced courses in four subjects selected
by himself and approved by the faculty.
In 1893 it was enacted that candidates for
the M. A. degree who were Bachelors of
Arts of other institutions should be ex-
cused from doing certain parts of the
B. A. work over again at the Uni-
versity. That they have had no "soft snap"
will appear from the fact that the seven-
teen men with college degrees, who have
taken the M. A. degree at the Uni-
versity since 1894, spent, on the average,
very nearly three years at the Uni-
versity in addition to the four years
previously spent at their various colleges.

In 1892, when the M. A. was first based
upon the B. A. degree, the latter consist-
ed of courses in eight subjects. In 1895
the number was raised to nine, and in
1897 it was again increased to ten. This
does not look like a lowering of the
"standard." The fact is that this B. A.
degree is far harder to get than was the
M. A. of ante-bellum days, and is proba-
bly harder than any B. A. degree in the
United States. Whether the faculty are
wise to make this particular degree so
difficult, is an open question, which we
may discuss at another time; but the
fact is that they have done so with the
result that to-day the B. A. and M. A.
degrees of the University of Virginia,
though more desirable and far better
adapted to the needs of students to-day,
have lost none of that prestige that comes
from the historic difficulty of the work
that has to be done by the students who
have gained that distinction.

Meat and Breakdowns.

Dr. W. H. Wiley, chief of the Bureau
of Chemistry in the Department of Agri-
culture, says that the American people
are getting ossified by eating meat, not
only too much, but too fast. Said Dr.
Wiley: "When you have got a lot of work
to do, don't eat much meat. Eat plenty
potatoes, corn and bread. They build up
tissues and don't overwork the kidneys." And
in proof of his contentions, he points
out the extraordinary capacity of the Japs,
who live almost entirely on rice, for en-
during great bodily fatigue and for re-
sisting disease and the ordinary dan-
gers of wounds.

We have now entered the spring, though
only the robins have come, and in a
short time the usual attack of spring fever
will be laying hold of the great major-
ity of American people. Whether we are
able to avoid this malady or not, it is at
least comforting to know, from Dr.
Wiley, that it is the result simply and
solely of overeating, the lassitude which
we experience being due to an over-
worked stomach and body, crying for rest
from the task of eliminating unnecessary
food.

Dr. Wiley said for himself that he was
not a crank on dieting, but he knew by
actual experience as well he may, for he
has conducted the so-called poison poison
tests at the Agricultural Department,
that a man can best keep himself young
by avoiding an excess of nitrogen in his
diet, whether taken in meats, or cheese,
or eggs, or peas and beans.

If the American people would practice
a little more abstemiousness in their food,
there would be a great delay in many
funerals and a vast addition to health
and happiness.

Dr. Wiley is also conducting experiments
on the effect of sulphate of copper, which
is used to color canned peas and other
vegetables and also borax, which is large-
ly used in adulterating foods. Both of
these substances the doctor found out to
be very injurious to the users and his
investigations show what a wide and im-
portant field there is for very careful and
effective legislation against impure food.

Cleaner Streets.

The Civic Improvement League did a
good work when it first began the crusade
for placing trash receptacles on the
street. Any lingering doubt that may have
been in the public mind at the need of
such utilities must have been laid at rest
by the lamb like breezes of last week,
which whirled up and down the streets
of Richmond scraps of paper of all sizes,
hues, colors and shapes, each piece of
which was a silent, but sharp, criticism
of the Richmond method of street clean-
ing.

We should have in this city receptacles
for paper, and trash and the public should
be induced both by penalty and by ex-
ample to aid in keeping the town free from
such a nuisance. In Berlin the public
would no more think throwing paper in
the street or spitting on the sidewalk
than they would of starting a bonfire in
the middle of the street. When the Mills
anti-spitting ordinance was passed some
two years ago for a while we had the
same spirit in Richmond, but it soon died
out. Time is ripe for a new crusade for
clean sidewalks and clean streets, and
it will be a public service if these re-
quirements are enforced.

A little police supervision and a little
active effort to make the public respect
the decrees of life would soon revive the
value of this ordinance.

It may take a great deal of money to
pave our streets, but it only takes a little
public spirit to put the trash in receptacles
and keep the sidewalks clean.

North Carolina Leads, as Usual.

The first State, other than Virginia,
to practically endorse the proposed James-
town Exposition, and to come to the aid
of Virginia in properly celebrating the
three hundredth anniversary of the settle-
ment of this country by white people, is
North Carolina. The Legislature of that
State in its closing hours passed a bill
appropriating money to enable the old
North State to have a home at Jamestown
and make an exhibit at the great Ex-
position that is sure to be held in 1907.

Virginia has always looked to North
Carolina for aid and comfort, and has
never looked in vain. In 1776 North Car-
olinians held a convention at Hillsboro
in the month of August, and by act of
that convention the people of that State
"succeeded" threw off the British yoke
and at once the Carolinians prepared for
serious business. Colonel (afterwards Gen-
eral) Robert Howe quickly raised a re-
quirement of a thousand men, and by the
1st of October, had marched to the de-
fense of Norfolk, soon to be menaced by
the British. Thus it happened that the
first troops from beyond Virginia bor-
ders to come to the defense of Virginia
in 76 came from the heart of North Car-
olina.

Again, in 1861 the first soldiers from
beyond the State line to come up to Vir-
ginia's defense, were the men of Colonel
(afterwards General) D. H. Hill's re-
giment, who received their first baptism
of fire at Bethel.

Again, in the dark days of Virginia's
second reconstruction, when a partisan
majority in the Senate of the United

States was "investigating" the so-called
"Danville riot" and striving to humiliate
some of the best and noblest of our Vir-
ginia manhood, and at a period when that
manhood was for the time being with-
out a representative in the Senate, the
peerless Zebulon B. Vance, of North Car-
olina, became the champion of insulted
Virginians, and students of history know
how well and how faithfully he stood by
them.

And, how again, and in yet a different
way, North Carolina comes up to the help
of the Old Dominion.

Murrah for the old North State, forever.

Russia and a Free Press.

In his essay on Barrer, Lord Macaulay
points out the great part played by the
freedom of the press in France in bring-
ing on the French Revolution, but he took
occasion to say that a free press alone
could not create a revolution where no
need for revolution existed. The Eng-
lish press, he said, was fully as free
as that of France, but there was no revo-
lution in England, because the English
government was not tyrannical. But he
expressed the opinion that if a press as
free as that of England were put in St.
Petersburg a revolution would follow in
six months.

That the opinion of Lord Macaulay was
sound is apparent from the conditions
existing to-day, and though the Russian
press has far more freedom to-day than
it had even a few years ago, it is not
yet emancipated enough to fan the flame
of popular discontent into a successful
and aggressive revolution; nor will the
press be likely to obtain this freedom so
long as the autocracy controls the gov-
ernment. The situation is illuminated by
the present attitude of the government
towards press references to the emancipa-
tion of the serfs.

On Saturday last the common people in
most of the leading cities and towns of
Russia celebrated the anniversary of this
great reform, and what is more remark-
able, they were allowed to celebrate it un-
molested. Only ten years ago the news-
papers of St. Petersburg, Moscow and
other Russian centers were forbidden by
imperial order to make any reference to
the day. When the order was issued, one
Russian paper (we do not remember its
name) complied with and yet evaded the
imperial order by publishing the order it-
self, on the date of the anniversary in
an edition without any date at the top
of its page. So striking an omission called
attention to the anniversary more
forcibly than printed comment could pos-
sibly have done, and the humor of the
thing was bound to relax. The next
year the order was less rigid and now no
objection to a public celebration is raised.
The power of the newspaper is great in
one way or another, even in Russia.

The reports are conflicting and it is im-
possible to say just how many soldiers
are engaged in the mighty conflict now
going on in Manchuria. According to
the best information at hand, Kuropatkin
has about 300,000 Russians on the fight-
ing line, while the Japanese are believed
to now have something over 300,000 men
actually shooting and being shot at. Add
to all these the wagoners, camp men, com-
missary employees, hospital forces, etc.,
of both armies and it is quite possible
that three-quarters of a million men are
now actively engaged in this wonderful
struggle in Manchuria. Not less than 100-
000 of these must perish before the horri-
ble carnage shall end with the inevitable
fall of Mukden.

Dr. Lyman Abbot insists that "wealth
is a danger," and Dr. Darlington, of the
New York Board of Health, "fully agrees
with him." Money now stands condemned
on both the moral and physical counts,
but the people have not yet gotten to the
point where they absolutely shun it.

It is semi-officially announced that
whatever of the Russian army that may
be left in Manchuria after Oyama gets
through with it will be commanded by
Grand Duke Nicholas Michaelovitch, and
that Kuropatkin will go home to keep
company with Roosevelt.

Now that Commissioner Garfield has
turned in his report and gotten through,
Kansas requests that a man of nerve
and independence be delegated to investi-
gate the beef trust. Give this job to Tom
Lawson.

It is said that quite a number of the
gold laced colonels who attended inau-
guration are still anxiously lingering in
the ante-room adjoining the pie counter
in Washington.

And all this excited talk about a great
Southern iron combine has subsided in
obedience to the old militia command: "As
you were, men, as you were."

"Political leaders in New York are try-
ing to create cheap gas."

Several papers have recently printed
the above as a news item.

Secretary Hay has intimated to Hayti
and Santo Domingo that our interest in
them is not sufficient to make them feel
at all self-conscious.

At the present pace, legislation will soon
be necessary to secure for the trust law-
yers a twelve-hour day and a half holiday
on Sundays.

Combiner Handley may or may not have
heard of a little couple: "If at first you
won't fall, try again."

Mr. Rockefeller is believed to have
reached the conclusion that bleeding Kan-
sas is no longer in a mood to be bled.

The Jamestown Exposition is getting on
its walking legs all right.

A well-groomed man never
neglects his teeth. Think that
over a bit. At all the stores
you'll find

SOZODONT
Forms: Liquid, Powder & Paste

This largest general assortment of
Yellow Pine, White Pine, Hardwood
and Mahogany

LUMBER

in the South Atlantic States.
Warehouses with capacity of six mil-
lion feet.

WOODWARD & SON,
General Offices: NINTH AND
ARCH STREETS, Richmond, Va.

FILTHY LUCRE

Very Filthy Lucre.
(Dr. Darlington, of the New York Board
of Health, says that an ordinary penny
holds twenty-six bacteria, a dime forty-
three, and a dirty dollar bill 75,000.)

If you're anxious to be healthy
And avoid the dread diphtheria,
Quit trying to be wealthy.
Hold twenty-six bacteria.
They say—not trying to be funny—
That danger lurks in using money.

It's news as much as any
To the medical matter.
That a single dirty penny
Are swarmed on every dime.
And not a single one unwilling
To start us physicking and pilling.

It's not apt to make us cheerier
To be thinking all the time
That forty-odd bacteria
Are swarmed on every dime.
Each one of whom is more than ready
To harm a gentleman or lady.

And the doctors loudly holler
To beware, for, willy-nilly,
When we grasp a paper dollar
We've grasped a host of bacilli.
Who, though they have no length or
thickness,
Have many ways of spreading sick-
ness.

So it cannot be disputed—
And the news makes living drearier—
That our currency's polluted
With bacilli, germs, bacteria.
We've grasped a host of bacilli.
In that they like to live on money.

QUERIES ANDANSWERS

Cancelled Orders.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—Will you kindly answer through
the query column if a merchant should
place an order with a salesman for goods
and before the goods are shipped, should
write to the firm asking that the order
be cancelled, would he have to take the
goods afterwards sent to him?
A MERCHANT.

Depends upon what kind of contract
was made with the salesman. Ordinarily,
we should say: If the cancellation order
reached the shipper in ample time, the
deal was legally off.

Convulsions in Cats.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—Can you tell me in your next Week-
ly Times-Dispatch what is the disease
among the cats? I had eight fine cats,
and all died in one week. They began
to vomit, then sleep for five or six hours,
then die in a hard fit. The neighbors are
losing theirs all around me, and all are
affected alike. Please tell me the name
of the disease, and if there is a remedy,
for it, where can I address a letter to ob-
tain treatment for pet animals?
A CONSTANT READER.

Convulsions are far more frequent in
young animals, and are usually due to
digestive irritation, overfeeding or irri-
tating food.

Calling Time.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—Will you kindly solve the enclosed
problem for me and return same, or let
it appear in your paper. It appears in one
of the text-books used in this state:
Ex—What is the "local time" at Den-
ver, (long. 104 degrees 55 minutes 33 sec-
onds, west) when it is 9 A. M. "standard
time" at Cleveland (long. 81 degrees 40
minutes 30 seconds, west)?
I would prefer to receive the solution
of the problem by letter, it isn't ask-
ing too much. I believe the answer in
the book to be incorrect, reading thus:
1.8 seconds past 8 A. M.; when it should
be: 1.8 seconds past 7 A. M. Thanking
you in advance, I am,
Yours very truly,
H. M. GRANT.

Independence, Va. H. M. GRANT.
Cleveland takes the time of 75 degrees
meridian as 9; time at 90 degree meridian
is 8; time at 105 degrees meridian is 7;
106 deg. — (154 deg. 09 min. 33 sec. =
27 sec. 27 sec. ÷ 15 = 1.8. So the local time
of Denver is 1.8 seconds past 7 A. M.

Probably Distemper.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—I have some cats that have a
sneezing and coughing, and they will
finally dwindle away and die. I don't
know what kind of a disease it is. I
would be very glad if you or some reader
would tell me of some remedy that would
cure them.
It is probably distemper. The cat with
distemper should be isolated at once; kept
in a warm and quiet room, and protected
from drafts. Before any complications
become marked, give it a small dose of
soda bicarbonate in milk and a very light
laxative; drastic cathartics should never
be given. The strength of the animal
must be maintained, but never force any
food unless absolutely necessary. Twenty
to thirty drops of good whiskey or brandy
is the best stimulant in such cases.

As to Warts.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—Some one in your query column
asks for a remedy for warts on the hand.
Your recipe of vinegar, with five other
ingredients at the full of the moon, re-
minds me of my experience over forty
years ago, for a similar trouble. Some
one advised the opening of one of the
warts with the blood saturated each
end of a piece of straw. This, then, as
now, appears ridiculous; yet, I tried it,
with the result that all disappeared soon
after, and not one has ever returned.
Whether in person or by deputy, Was it
Paul who said, "The foolishness of this
world confoundeth the wise."
Dunns, Va., 1905.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—If you have "The Death Bed of
Benedict Arnold," I wish you would have
some published in the weekly edition of
The Times-Dispatch or ask some of the
readers to please furnish same.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Mine Run, Va.

Will some reader kindly furnish us with

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SUN SHINES ON GAY CAVALCADE

Clouds Move Away and Give
Rex and His Court
Full Sway.

(By Associated Press.)

NEW ORLEANS, Mar. 7.—Carnival
Day opened with the skies overcast and
rain threatening, but before the parade
started, the sun came out and there
was promise of an ideal day. The page-
ant Rex on St. Charles Avenue, was four
hours in traversing its route. His Majes-
ty, chose for his subject: "Idealistic
Queens" and treated it in twenty highly
decorated cars. Miss May Parkerson,
the Queen of Proteus and her maids,
and the queens of Rex and Comus, with
their maids, witnessed the display from
the Boston and Pickwick Clubs, at which
Rex stopped momentarily to give his re-
sponse. The King of the Carnival was
impersonated by David Henken Morris,
of New York and New Orleans. The
carnival culminated to-night with the
annual pageant of Comus and the bas-
s of Comus and Rex at the French opera-
house and the Imperial palace.

Though the afternoon was threatening,
carnival day passed without a down-
pour of rain, and the pleasure of the
vast crowds on the streets was uninter-
rupted. The pageant culminated with a
brilliant display by Comus to-night and
the history of the carnival evening de-
veloped into classic lore, telling in a
series of twenty gorgeous floats the story of
the search for the lost paradise. At the con-
clusion of the parade a comedy was enacted
at a ball at the French Opera House, which
attracted society leaders from all sec-
tions of the country. A popular recep-
tion was given by Rex at Washington
Arlington Hall, which for the occasion,
was converted into an immense ball-
room. Rex and his court, the Queen of
Carnival, Miss Hazel Ellis.

Carnival in Mobile.

(By Associated Press.)
MOBILE, Ala., Mar. 7.—The city was
crowded to-day with visitors to witness
the annual carnival celebration and the
streets were filled with the making of
the parade. In the afternoon the folk parade took
place, which included Felix and his
household, Tishahona Tribe and the
local history of the city. The discovery
of America on four floats, the Knights of
Revelry, depicting "Folk Lore on six
floats and the comic showmen of the
time of "Innocent Punt." To-night the
spectacular moving tableaux were on
myth showing legends of childhood,
on seven floats, and the infant myths,
illustrating drama and comedy on all
floats. At the parade the societies held
their annual balls, which were large-
ly attended and visited by the Emperor
and Queen and their court. The cele-
bration was a marked success and the
weather was ideal.

Celebration in Natchez.

(By Associated Press.)
NATCHEZ, MISS., Mar. 7.—The ar-
rival of Rex was the feature to-day of
the eighth annual celebration of Mardi
Gras held in this city. The parade
started at 10 o'clock and the Emperor
bearing the carnival king and party
landed here at noon. The triumphal
march of Rex through the city was at-
tended by an imposing military display,
a corps of cadets from Jefferson Military
College being in line.

At 8 P. M. the night pageant of six-
teen spectacular moving tableaux was
presented. The subject treated in the
tableaux was the "Happiness of Imagination."

The carnival closed with the Rex ball
at the Baker Grand Theatre and an over-
flow ball at the Institution Hall.

BIG PLANT BURNED; TWO PEOPLE KILLED

(By Associated Press.)
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, Mar. 7.—The
plant of the American Cereal Company,
the largest of its kind in the world,
comprising two entire blocks of brick
and iron structures, was destroyed by
fire to-night, with the exception of a
small group of cooper shops, storage and
packing rooms. The loss is estimated
at \$1,500,000, with insurance estimated
at nearly \$1,000,000. Two persons are
known to have lost their lives in the fire.
It is feared that several others lost their
lives, but this is not definitely known.
A man who was seen at a window fell
back into the flames.

The fire started in the hull grinding
room in one of the elevators and a sheet
of flame enveloped that structure. In
ten minutes more the flames had
crossed the avenue to the mill group of
buildings and the firemen were power-
less to prevent the spread of the flames
in either direction.

The University's Standard.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—The Presbyterian Standard in its
issue of February 18th, endorsing the
plan of a great university for the South-
ern Presbyterian Church, uses the follow-
ing language: "It must have a classical
and scientific standard superior to any-
thing in the South, certainly to anything
south of Baltimore. The University
of Virginia occupies a high plane
of scholarship that no other college
in the South can rival. The Virginia
colleges were all ambitious for their graduates
to go to the University and take the M.
A. degree there. Since lowering the high
standard has been lowered, the Uni-
versity has found itself in competition
with the colleges as never before. Let
us build in Alabama an institution of
learning that shall be to the Southern
Presbyterian colleges what the University
of Virginia was to the Virginia colleges
twenty years ago."

It is true that the University of Virginia
has lowered its standard, and a new in-
stitution with the colleges that formerly
delighted to send their graduates to
her.

When, how and for what reason was the
standard lowered, if at all? I have al-
ways thought that the University of
Virginia ranked with Harvard and Yale
in the South as a true bill or not?
Greensboro, N. C. "B."

Wood's Seeds.

New Era Cow Peas

are rightly named. They are the
best of Cow Peas, whether for
northern, western or southern
planting. They are early to ma-
ture, upright in growth, enormous-
ly productive, both of vines and
peas, and are altogether the most
satisfactory and sure croppers
grown.

We are headquarters for Cow
Peas; had over forty different
varieties in our exhibit at St.
Louis, on which we were awarded
the Grand Prize.

Wood's Descriptive Catalogue gives
the fullest information about Cow Peas
and all Garden and Farm Seeds.
It is a special price list of Farm Seeds,
for it and special price list of Farm Seeds.

T. W. Wood & Sons, Seedsmen,
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.

If you want the sweetest and best Water
Melons and Cantaloupes grown, plant
Wood's Southern-grown seeds. Our
Descriptive Catalogue tells you
it is the best kind to plant.

It is mailed free for the asking.

Royal Baking Powder Saves Health and Saves Money